



Weekly Drought Brief Monday May 5, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: Almost no precipitation fell from Monday, April 28 through Sunday, May 4:

- **Folsom:** 0.00" in the last week. 15.77" since July 1, **71%** of normal by this date.
- **Fresno:** 0.00" in the last week. 4.88" since July 1, **45%** of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy:** 0.00" in the last week. 19.57" since July 1, **56%** of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles:** 0.00" in the last week. 5.83" since July 1, **40%** of normal by this date.
- **Modesto:** 0.00" in the last week. 6.99" since July 1, **56%** of normal by this date.
- **Oroville:** 0.00" in the last week. 19.16" since July 1, **64%** of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines:** 0.12" in the last week. 27.40" since July 1, **54%** of normal by this date.
- **Redding:** 0.00" in the last week. 21.20" since July 1, **66%** of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento:** 0.00" in the last week. 10.25" since July 1, **51%** of normal by this date.
- **Shasta:** 0.00" in the last week. 34.16" since July 1, **56%** of normal by this date.
- **Willits:** 0.00" in the last week. 34.32" since July 1, **71%** of normal by this date.

** As this rainy season comes to an end, it is highly unlikely that precipitation totals will increase significantly over the coming months.**

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: Warmer weather will continue across the state this week with little to no expected precipitation.

Snow survey: The final manual [snowpack survey](#) of the season was conducted on Thursday (May 1) and showed California snowpack at 18% of normal. A slightly more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 17% of normal as of May 2.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of May 3 remain low, including: Don Pedro 53%; Exchequer 28%; Folsom Lake 57%; Lake Oroville 53%; Millerton Lake 45%; New Melones 38%; Pine Flat 32%; San Luis 47%; Shasta 53%; and Trinity Lake 52%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Fire Danger: 1,244 fires have been reported in CALFIRE's responsibility area since January 1, burning 2,685 acres. The number of wildfires this year is well above the year-to-date average of 599 fires, while the total acreage burned is somewhat below the year-to-date average of 3,911 acres. 136 new wildfires were reported over the past week. CALFIRE has accelerated staffing-up fire stations across the state this winter and spring, in most areas one to two months earlier than normal. This increased staffing has enabled many wildfires to be extinguished before spreading into larger fires.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK

- **Groundwater report shows decreased underground water supplies:** The Department of Water Resources last week released a [status report on groundwater supplies](#) throughout the state amidst the drought. The report documents shrinking groundwater supplies and details that in some places, groundwater levels have fallen more than 100 feet below previous recorded lows. DWR will produce another report in November that tracks groundwater supplies as the drought persists and will increase outreach to improve groundwater monitoring. Groundwater accounts for up to 60% of California's water supply during drought periods.
- **Conservation billboards launched throughout the state:** The state's [Save Our Water](#) campaign last week launched [a statewide outdoor media campaign](#) to raise awareness of the drought and convey to all residents the need to conserve water. This 'Californians Don't Waste' will soon feature radio advertisements and other media outreach. Governor Brown recently commemorated May as "[Save Our Water month](#)."
- **Input collected from Fresno community groups:** California Volunteers—state government's philanthropic and volunteer outreach arm—and the California Endowment held a large meeting and resource fair on Friday (May 2) in Fresno with several dozen community groups. The meeting was the second of several with community groups that are supporting drought-impacted residents. These conversations identify emerging needs that may be appropriate for foundations and the private sector to help support.
- **California annual Wildfire Awareness Week kicks off:** CALFIRE kicks-off "[Wildfire Awareness Week](#)" today (Monday, May 5) to build public awareness of the dangers of wildfires how these risks can be reduced. Governor Brown and other state leaders will highlight this week-long public awareness effort in Sacramento on Monday.
- **Feedback sought on recent water operations:** The State Water Board will hold [a workshop](#) on Tuesday, May 6 to discuss actions that the Water Board has taken since February to provide flexibility to DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation in their water operations. These changes have been approved through modifications to Temporary Urgency Change Petitions, and are [described in greater detail](#) on drought.ca.gov.
- **Water infrastructure financing fairs:** The State Water Board, along with six partner agencies, will host the first [California Financing Coordinating Committee Funding Fair](#) on May 28 in Sacramento. It will offer local governments an opportunity to learn about water infrastructure funding and financing that is current available for local water projects. This will be the [first of seven funding fairs](#) that will be held throughout the state in the coming months.
- **California Realtors promote conservation:** The California Association of Realtors has created [explanatory materials](#) and recently updated their [website](#) to make homeowners aware of new legal requirements to upgrade water fixtures during home renovations and to encourage homeowners to take voluntary conservation actions. Efforts by non-governmental groups such as the Realtors are important to achieve water conservation across the state.
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.

- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 41 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
 - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County, City of Montague-Siskiyou County
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Tuolumne Utilities District.
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 25 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)
 State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)
 Local Government [Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)
 California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
 California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
 California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
 California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
 California State Water Project, [Information](#)
 USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
 USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)
 Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster